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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Austria/Western Germany/Yugoslavia/USSR

SUBJECT Yugoslav Shipping on the Lower Austrian Danube
Curtailed by Recent Soviet Navy Maneuvers

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1. Yugoslavia's new commercial agreement with Bavaria has brought a marked increase in the volume of Yugoslav shipping on the Austrian Danube. In recent weeks numerous Yugoslav barges and motor ships have passed through Vienna carrying sawed timber, sulfur pyrites, and copper ore up the Danube to Regensburg, Germany, where they have picked up German coal for the return trip to Yugoslavia.
2. Since the end of June 1950, however, Yugoslav shipping has been impeded by the Soviet Navy Danube flotilla which has been engaged in maneuvers and practice firing exercises on the Lower Austrian Danube. According to Danube observers the Soviets cease fire only when Soviet petroleum tankers are in transit from Lobau to Moosbierbaum. For this reason and because they have no assurance of safe passage to Regensburg, five Yugoslav barges and two motor ships are now tied up at Vienna docks.

Comment: This interference with Danube shipping is a direct violation of the Danube River Agreement which the Soviets signed August 1948 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

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